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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1244)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	371859
Center	BENGALURU	Date	10/9/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. **(150 words) 10**

The IMF describes an Independent Fiscal council as indispensable in today's financial scenario.

IFC:

(a) independent council to produce estimates of fiscal deficit, etc.

(b) aid government in achieving targets

(c) government will need to consult IFC before target breaching

This institution will ensure:

(1) Transparency

(a) since government budget estimates are mostly inaccurate (overestimated revenue in 15 of last 20 fiscals), IFC will highlight such flaws

(b) ensure recourse to creative

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accounting is highlighted to let public get the real picture (ex- LIC buying government shares)

(c) highlighting resource to Extra Budgetary Resources to portray real economic scenario.

(2) Accountability

(a) ensures 'comply or explain' norm in government finances

(b) will also ensure States are held accountable by aiding Centre in Art. 293 powers (permission for State to raise debt)

(c) regular public reports & permissions before target breaching will ensure accountability.

Thus, as is now an international norm, IFC is the need of the hour.

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2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

India's current account deficit recently increased from 1.8% (2017) → 2.4% of GDP (2018).

This highlights India's weakening exports despite their employment potential:

① export sectors like footwear are highly labour intensive (Eco Survey 2017)

② exports → increase → profits → increase → investment → increase → employment → increase → exports

③ export sector jobs are generally more formal & better quality jobs, thus reducing underemployment.

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Thus, to address the weakening exports in light of its benefits, number of steps have been taken:

① AgriExport Policy to increase agri exports from 30 b $ → 60 b $

② Special Economic Zones Act 2005

However, more steps are needed:

① boost labour intensive export sectors (like footwear) through incentives

② easing credit facility to export-oriented industries

③ focus on value added exports (as in Agri Export Policy)

④ addressing SEZ problems on lines of Baba Kalyani recommendations

⑤ and MSME growth that account for 40% of manufacturing exports

These steps will help achieve our $5 trillion goal

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3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining.

(150 words) 10

The Government recently came up with a National Mineral Policy 2019. This was warranted because

① mining forms 1-2% of our GDP vs 5-6% of developed nations

② production-to-import ratio of 1:10

③ SC verdict in PUCL vs UoI regarding 2012 Policy

Features:

① Dedicated Mineral Corridors to increase private participation

② Special Mining Zones to deal with regulatory hassles

③ focus on intergenerational equity

④ ensuring full utilisation of District Mineral Funds for the locals

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This helps in sustainable & responsible mining because:

① increasing private partn. → increased competition → improved tech → increased sustainable mining

② focus on intergenerational equity in National Mineral Policy will ensure sustainable use of resources

③ District Mineral Funds to be utilised for socio-economic development of locals particularly benefitting East India

However, lack of funds & procedures to ensure intergeneration equity may cause this to become a symbolic legislation. Thus, more details & measures to ensure sustainable growth of mining is needed.

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4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

Recently the PM JIVAN Yojana was launched to boost biofuel industries in India.

Features:

① aids in setting up 12 2-G ethanol projects

② mandatory purchase of produce by OPMCs

③ ~~PM~~ Jaiv Indhan (biofuel) to be made from biomass, agri residue, etc thus assisting farmers & animal breeders

④ under the agency Centre for High Technology, Ministry of Power

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This mission will ensure achievement of NPB 2018 as:

① NPB 2018 also focuses on 2-G fuels similar to PM-JIVAN goals

② ensures boost to biofuel industry as envisaged by PM-JIVAN

③ blending targets of 10% set by NPB will be achieved due to OPMCs mandatory purchase

④ NPB focus on optimal resource usage will be achieved through a decentralised PM-JIVAN implementation

Thus, considering the economic & environmental benefits of biofuels, PM-JIVAN & NPB 2018 are steps in the right direction.

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5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

Zero Budget Natural Farming, the brainchild of Shri Shubhash Palekar, involves: (i) Jeevamrutha (alternative to fertilizer)
(ii) Beejamrutha (high quality natural seeds)
(iii) Aeration & minimal irrigation
(iii) soil mulching

This provides an alternative to:

(1) Capital Intensive Farming

(a) proposes zero input costs & the zero capital
(b) homegrown seeds, easily available jeevamrutha (cowdung, cow urine) ensure no capital expenditure
(c) minimal irrigation cuts down on high irrigation costs of government

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(2) Chemical Intensive Farming

(a) no use of chemical pestiides & insectides

(b) ensures IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

(c) since no chemicals used, problems of bio magnification also avoided

Thus, to ensure reduction in debts in the agri households (56% of agri houses under debt with Telangana average of Rs 1 lakh per household) & also increased chemicals usage in agri production, Government ~~produce~~ should focus on ZBNF. Recent steps allowing fund availing from RKVY-RAFTAAR & PKVY for ZBNF are steps in the right direction.

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6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. **(150 words) 10**

Marine ecosystem is facing unprecedented threats from ~~marin~~ plastic waste as is highlighted by:

1. 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into oceans annually
2. cities in South Asia have turned marine plastic waste an emergency

The implications of this are:

1. Ecosystem Implications

(a) destroys delicate life balance in marine environments

(b) break into micro & nanoplastics ingested by marine organism

(c) bioaugmentation & biomagnification harm human lives too

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(d) corals facing threat of plastic waste
(e) release of dangerous chemicals like Bisphenol-A
(f) vector borne diseases multiply around plastic substrate

(2) Economic Implications: (a) annual cost of $13 billion to marine economy
(b) harms high potential of Blue Economy
(c) fishing sector hit

Measures:
(1) reduce plastic waste (Honolulu Strategy)
(2) Ocean clean up projects (efforts to clean Great Pacific Garbage Patch)
(3) ensuring collection & safe disposal of plastic wastes

Thus, systemic, behavioural & coordinated responses are required to help achieve SDG 14 by 2030.

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7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. **(150 words) 10**

Bharat Stage Norms, on line of Euro Norms, are emission standards for internal combustible engines for motor vehicles.

India is planning introduction of BS-VI norms, skipping BS-V by April 2020

Significance:

① potential to reduce PM emissions by 80% from BS-IV

② reduce NO_x emissions through Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) by 70%. (in diesel engines)

③ reduce Sulphur concentration from BS IV fuel (50 ppm → 10 ppm)

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(4) on board diagnostics to alert violations

Challenges:

(1) Euro-VI norms were introduced after 9 yrs of ~~preparation~~ Stage V ~~BS~~

(2) costly ~~for~~ BS-VI fuel production (time of Rs 80000 crore)

(3) AUS-32 chemical needed in SCR needs to be imported

(4) especially challenging considering the ongoing automobile slowdown (30% drop in demand in Aug-19)

Thus, although significant, many challenges abound. Government should cooperate with the private sector to ensure seamless adoption.

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8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project? **(150 words) 10**

Black Holes:

(a) large galactic bodies

(b) humongous density thus attract everything including light

(c) formed after collapse of giant stars with huge mass

Challenges in imaging:

(1) extremely distant from Earth

(2) extremely larger, cannot be captured from one-location

(3) since nothing escapes them, tough to detect

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Despite these challenges the Event Horizon Telescope Project managed to capture an image because:

① multi-institutional efforts thus overall expertise

② network ~~range~~ of telescopes used spread over multiple continents

③ innovation by focusing on light characteristics to detect & capture image

Thus this opens an avenue of research to improve our understanding of the galaxies & universe.

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9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. **(150 words) 10**

USA recently pulled out of the Arms Trade Treaty, thus bringing to light its features & objectives.

Objectives

① prevent usage of traded arms (exported arms) in crimes against humanity

② prevent access to arms to non-state actors

③ covers wide range of arms from small ammo (guns, rifles) to tanks, launchers, etc.

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The challenges hindering its potential achievement:

① geostrategic objectives of nations taking precedence (ex → US involvement in Yemen war)

② lack of political will for implementation

③ dependence of economies on export of arms (US, Canada, etc)

Thus, inherent factors hamper the ATT.

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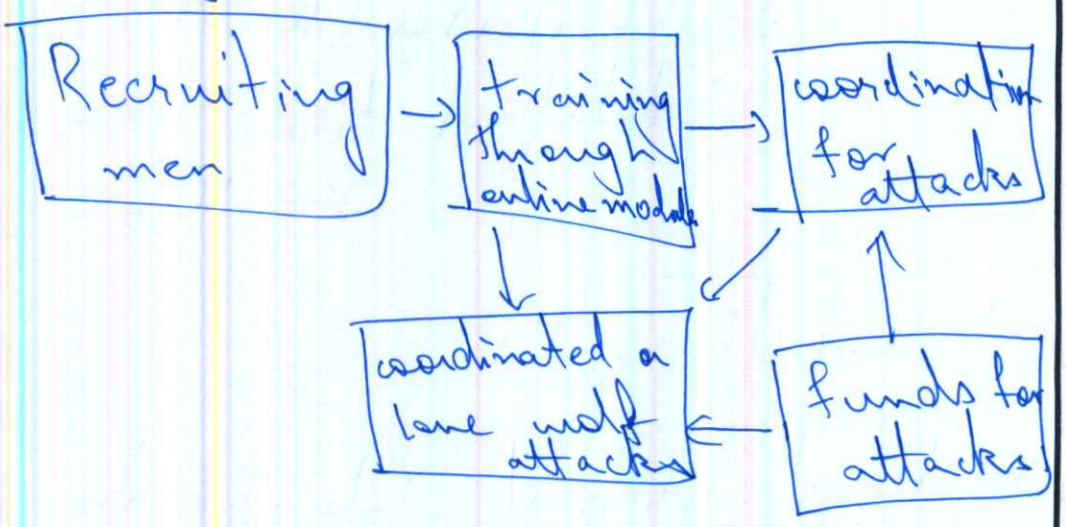
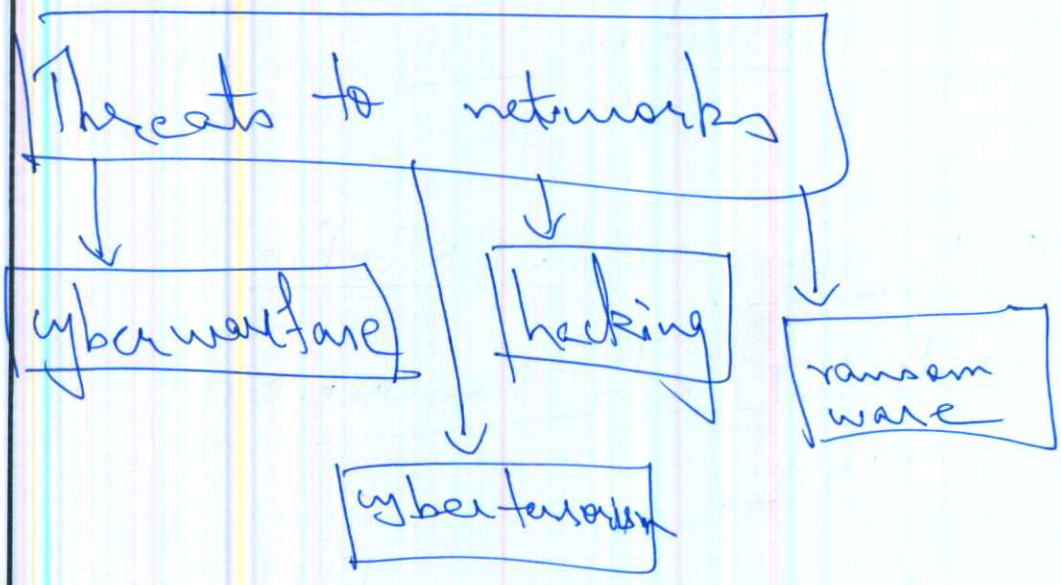
10. Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure.

(150 words) 10

Internal Security challenges through networks:





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Steps taken by Government

① Legislation:

IT-Act → hacking (Sec 66)
→ cybersecurity (Sec 69)
→ data protection (Sec 43)

② Institutions

ⓐ National Critical Info Infrastructure Protection Cell under NTRO

ⓑ CERT-In & CERT-Fin

ⓒ National Tech Research Org. under NSA

Thus, although commendable steps exist, more protection is warranted

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11. Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. **(250 words) 15**

Variable Renewable Energy refers to the energy generated by hybrid systems comprising various renewable energy inputs.

Importance:

① ensures continuous energy unlike other renewable energy sources ex→ solar, wind

② integration will increase demand & thus reduce supply

③ extremely important to integrate because of crisis of conventional power producers (operating at <60%)

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(4) price falls of 50% in solar & 60% in wind energy could help ~~cheap~~ discoms through cheap PPAs

(5) helps achieve INDCs (40% renewable energy generation)

However, several challenges abound:

(1) tech development in VRE is low thus production is a challenge, hampering integration goals

(2) inherent problems of Indian grid system - not optimally designed, bulky, inefficient;

(3) storage challenges in VRE persist

(4) high capital expenditure required for development & integration

(5) location of VRE industries generally at long distances from transmitters, etc

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Thus, some steps required are:

① work on VRE development & storage tech

② solving inherent Indian grid challenges

③ seeking international cooperation via ISA, ~~etc~~ IRENA.

Thus considering the economic & environmental benefits, the Government should work towards smooth integration of VRE in a focused & target oriented manner.

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12. There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? **(250 words) 15**

Economic Survey 2018 talks of the possibility of India falling into a middle income trap like South Africa & Brazil.

Phenomenon:

A Middle Income trap occurs when:

(a) country faces high speed growth to become a middle income nation ($1000 - $12000 GNI per capita)

(b) country gets stuck in this position & can neither compete with high income nations (innovation) nor low income nations (cheap labour)

This occurs when:

(1) country fails to specialise & shift from a resource based to

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an innovation led economy

Reasons behind fears of India falling in this trap:

① Poor resource utilisation:
ⓐ lack of focus on innovation
ⓑ still a resource driven economy
ⓒ average productivity of Indian labor one-third that of China

② Global slowdown
ⓐ trade wars & fears of recession
ⓑ will harm trade which is >40% of India's GDP

③ Human Resource Woes
ⓐ only 4.4% formally skilled labour
ⓑ with IR 4.0, skill gaps are increasing even faster
ⓒ middle class woes due to inequality

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To avoid this phenomena, India needs a multipronged approach:

① Research & Development:

ⓐ increase spending from current 0.6% of GDP on research

ⓑ better academia-industry linkages

② Welfare Schemes Reorientation

ⓐ towards the middle class through tax breaks, etc.

ⓑ equitable tax burden through rates rationalization

③ Human Development

ⓐ more formal skilling

ⓑ involving private sector in skilling through Sector Skill Councils

Thus, to achieve the $5 trillion economy dream, India needs to avoid this trap.

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13. Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. **(250 words) 15**

Monetary Policy Transmission is the transmission & implementation of the monetary signals of the RBI to industries & households.

Its importance lies in:

(a) ensuring effective monetary policy control of RBI

(b) creating conducive business environment for investors

(c) helping effectively control inflation within 4% (±2%) band

(d) guiding business regarding short & long term financial policies

However, considering that in past 4 quarters only 29 basis points of the 110

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bps decrease of the RBI's rate has been transmitted, monetary policy transmission faces several issues:

(a) over dependence ~~of~~ on banks:
(i) banks have bulk of deposits
(ii) depend less on RBI's repo rate for monetary decisions

(b) Banks's Double Financial Repression
(i) high CRR & SLR requirements
(ii) high PSL requirements (40% of ANBC)

(c) NPA crisis
(i) 10% NPAs in banking sector
(ii) higher 14% NPAs for PSBs
(iii) prevents banks from easing credit

(d) banks passing on rate hikes but rate cuts are not passed

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To counter this, RBI has taken several steps:

① changing from:

benchmark prime lending rate → base rate → marginal cost of lending rate

for better transmission

② tackling NPAs through

4Rs → Recognise
→ Resolve
→ Recap
→ Reform

③ implementing Janak Raj Committee recommendations

However, a more dynamic shift like linkage to an external benchmark rate is required to solve this conundrum & help RBI fulfil its mandate.

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14. Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas. **(250 words) 15**

52% of India's gross cropped area of 200 million hectare is rainfed.

Rainfed agri is extremely important for India as:

(a) 88% pulses production from these areas

(b) ~40% rice production

(c) 60% cattle supported in these areas

However, despite their importance these areas faces several constraints.

① Policy Bias

(a) Government between 2000-2010 spent Rs 5 lakh crore on rice & wheat procurement & only Rs 3000 crore for millets, pulses procurement

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(b) this disproportionately harms rainfed areas

(2) Productivity

(a) average irrigated area productivity is 2.8 mT per acre vs 1.1 mT per acre for rainfed areas

(b) lower productivity → lower income → lower investment → lower productivity

(3) Higher Risks

(a) Economic Survey 2018 states risks of revenue loss of upto 25% for unirrigated areas due to climate change

(b) ~~[illegible]~~ stems from inability to suffer climate shocks

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Thus, this calls for effective agronomic practices:

① Zero Budget Natural Farming

ⓐ low water use & fertiliser use

ⓑ reduces input costs thus increasing profits

ⓒ also improves fertility of soil

② Suitable Cropping Practices

ⓐ practices like relay cropping, intercropping to provide diversified income cushion

ⓑ appropriate crops like millets, pulses instead of water-guzzlers (sugarcane, paddy)

This along with increased government assistance & higher irrigation coverage through PMKSY is the need of the hour.

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15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

(250 words) 15

From the advent of the Green Revolution fertilisers & in particular urea, has been an indispensible part of Indian farming.

The Government has taken several steps to address the issues in the sector:

① National Urea Policy

ⓐ aims to reduce import dependence on urea

ⓑ currently 22% of our demands met via imports

② ~~Neem coated Urea Policy~~

ⓐ mandating atleast 75% of urea to be neem coated

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(b) ensures: - (i) better retention in soil
(ii) prevents diversion to industrial uses
~~(iii)~~ (3) use of Soil Health Cards
~~(3)~~ (4) focusing on other P & K fertilisers to ensure proper nutrient balance

However, general issues remain:
(1) urea production domestically still lags behind demand
(2) current N:P:K ratio of 8:3:1 vs ideal 4:2:1 shows overuse of urea
(3) implementation of neem-coated urea policy is unsatisfactory
(4) 60% of India's agri fields are degrading due to fertiliser misuse

Thus, ~~despite~~ to address these issues, several other reforms are needed:

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① regular updation of Soil Health Cards & raising awareness about their use

② incentivising domestic urea production further

③ increasing coverage of Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme

④ lab to land extension of good urea-use practices through Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Thus, there is an urgent need to ensure removal of these issues to ensure the food security, food quality & economic benefits that reforms will accrue.

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16. What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. **(250 words) 15**

Access & Benefit Sharing involves:

① sustainable use of biodiversity resources

② ensuring access to resources across countries

③ ensuring benefit sharing with all stakeholders

This principle is extremely important to ensure biodiversity's sustainable & equitable use.

It helps because:

① Sustainability at core

ⓐ focus on ensuring sustainable utilisation not economic exploitation

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(b) thus aids in ensuring regeneration
(c) also helps in intergenerational equity

(2) Benefit Sharing For MU

(a) ensures access to biodiversity resources is transparent & open
(b) stakeholders like tribals, locals, etc. also benefit
(c) ensured by setting aside fraction of proceeds for local community

Considering its importance, several mechanisms aim to implement ABS.

(1) National Level

(a) Legislative Measures,
(i) National Biodiversity ~~Authority~~ Act
(ii) mandates 2% of profits from

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biodiversity resources for local committee

(b) Institutional Measures

(i) National Biodiversity Authority
(ii) State Biodiversity Boards
(iii) Local Level committees for implementation & documentation

(2) Global level

(a) ~~Cart~~ Convention of Biological Diversity - Nagoya Protocol mandates ABS

(b) Aichi Targets of CBD also prescribe ABS

Thus, recognising its importance several steps have been taken to ensure attainment of SDG 15 by 2030.

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17. Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. **(250 words) 15**

Disaster Resilience of Infrastructure involves building infrastructure that can resist & survive several types of natural & manmade disasters while ensuring its functionality.

Significance of DRI :

(1) Safety

(a) disaster resilient buildings minimise loss of life

(b) loss of economic property is also minimum

(2) Disaster Management

(a) disaster resilient telecom infrastructure aids in disaster management

(b) smooth communication saves lives &

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property

(3) in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

(4) particularly significant considering more frequent & intense disasters due to climate change

Challenges in Achieving DRI:

(1) Economic Challenges

(a) India expected to fall short of infra financing need by $0.6 trillion by 2040

(b) DRI will further increase gap

(2) Application Issues

(a) lack of standardisation of DRI

(b) lack of awareness of importance to the price-sensitive Indian consumer

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Thus, there is a need to mainstream disaster resilience in our developmental paradigm by:

① ensuring standardisation of DRI buildings, telecom, etc.

② proper disaster zoning maps to identify vulnerabilites

③ Disaster Impact Assessment tests in line with EIA

④ disaster resilience by design

⑤ ensuring 'Build Back Better' Sendai principle in reconstructions

Thus, considering climate change & the increasing disasters that it accompanies, DRI is the need of the hour.

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18. Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. **(250 words) 15**

Recent stance of Government of India & the RBI stressing on the need for data localization has highlighted this issue.

Data Localisation:

(a) refers to the practice of storage of a nation's data (of citizens, etc.) within national borders

(b) varies in degree from sole storage inside country to storage of a copy of the data inside country

Significance:

(1) Privacy of citizens

(a) storing national data in country

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ensures sovereign control over it

(b) foreign nations cannot access this data

(c) data is protected by national laws & misuse penalised (on lines of BN Sri Krishna Committee)

(2) Economic Benefits

(a) will increase investment in cloud storage tech & hardware

(b) generate high employment

(c) innovation-led growth will ensure no Middle Income Trap

(d) aid local & national companies in competition against foreign MNCs (ex-> Flipkart vs Amazon)

However, this has several challenges associated with it:

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① costs of creating servers, storage hardware are high

② might disincentivise foreign companies from entering India

③ Indian companies too might not benefit if adequate infrastructure is not provided

④ WTO complaints can't be ruled out

⑤ oligopolistic sector of data storage infrastructure ~~harms~~ causes high barrier to entry (Amazon Web Services dominance)

⑥ single place storage makes data vulnerable

Thus, although in the interests of the nation, a well considered solution is needed.

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19. Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace?

(250 words) 15

Money Laundering is the illegal act of displaying as genuine, proceeds that have been earned from illegal activities.

Involves:

Placement Stage → Layering Stage → Integration Stage

This is a socio-economic offence especially for developing nations:

① helps money out of tax bracket reducing government funds for socio-economic welfare (especially in developing nations)

② prevents the central bank from devising middle-income friendly policies due to a parallel economy

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ drives up inequality in nations thus impacting equitable human development

④ harms small business due to investment of the proceeds into large companies thus killing competition (needed for developing to developed transition)

Considering these challenges, several measures have been taken to control it:

① Domestic Level

ⓐ Legislative Measures

(i) Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002

(ii) Benami Property Act

ⓑ Institutional Measures

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(i) Enforcement Directorate to implement PMLA

(ii) Financial Intelligence Unit to report suspect financial actions

Others: (i) KYC norms implementation
(ii) shutting down 4 lakh shell companies

International Level

(1) Financial Action Task Force to target Money Laundering

(2) Asia Pacific Group for coordination of actions of Asia-Pacific nations

(3) Wolfsberg Principles for private sector efforts

Although commendable efforts are taken, this menace needs a stunned coordinated response.

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20. The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

Terrorism & organised crime despite having several contradictions in their motives & means share a symbiotic relationship.

Differences:

Terrorism	Organised Crime
① driven by political religious & ideological motives	① driven by economic motives
② motive involves violent overthrow of ruling regime	② prefer status quo with parallel activities
③ motive to strike fear to achieve aims	③ peace ~~fut~~ is the norm, violence the exception

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However, despite seemingly different motives, a symbiotic relationship exists:

Terrorism ← operational support / funding support → Organised Crime

(i) Terrorism aiding Organised Crime:

(a) ensures operations of organised crime run smoothly

(b) provide vehicles for illegal gun running, drug trafficking

(c) drug production (opium by Taliban) to aid drug trafficking

(d) human victims of human trafficking provided (Yazhidi women by ISIS)

(e) ensure area under their control is utilised by organised crime syndicates (Golden Crescent)

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(2) Organised Crime Aiding Terrorism

(a) ensures funding for terror activities through charities, money laundering

(b) especially important in times of global crackdown on state sponsors (FATF actions vs Pakistan)

(c) provide high level connections to terrorist organisations for collusion

Thus, with increased globalisation & technological anonymity, these relationships will only get stronger. Thus, a focused & internationally coordinated response with FATF support is needed.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1246)

Name of Candidate	KUMAR SHIVASHISH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	371859
Center	BENGALURU	Date	9/9/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Rock-cut structures were closely associated with various religions and religious activities. Discuss the ~~statement giving relevant examples~~.

(150 words) 10

Indian architecture - particularly rock cut caves, temples - are closely associated to its religious past.

Closeness to Religion:

① Rock Cut Caves:

ⓐ Ajanta caves with depictions of Buddha & his life

ⓑ mural paintings of Padmapani Vajrapani, etc.

ⓒ rock cut ~~temple~~ temple cave of Shiva by Ganga dynasty in Ellora

ⓓ Elephanta caves depiction of Trimurti

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(2) Rock cut Temples

(a) Mandagapattu temple by Pandyas

(b) Mamallapuram rock cut Pandava chariots

(c) Dravidian rock cut temples dedicated to Vishnu & Shiva

Closeness to Religious activities:

(a) temples used for religious festivals

(b) royal weddings which had religious tinge

(c) religious education fostered in religious rock cut temples ex→ Kanchi

Thus, rock cut architecture of India is closely associated to religion

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2. The legislative and administrative record of the Congress Ministries during their twenty-eight months rule under the Act of 1935 was positive, but the period also witnessed the emergence of serious weaknesses in the Congress. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

Congress, post the 1937 provincial elections, formed governments in all States barring Punjab, Sindh & Bengal.

This 28-month rule saw it share of successes:

Legislative successes:

① laws to ensure peasant welfare
ex→ cancelling all rent hikes since 1911 in Bihar

② laws to ensure smooth labour relations ex→ through Disputes Act, etc.

③ laws to effect societal change
ex→ opening up temples, wells; prohibition in few areas

Administrative Success:

① increase in civil liberties by reducing

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CID & police powers
② restoring pensions & lands of participants in freedom struggle

However, some serious weaknesses did emerge:
① corruption in Congress due to presence of responsinists
② failure to completely solve agri problems led to peasant backlash ex→ Bedakhli land in Bihar
③ labour disputes solving irked the left ex→ in Bombay
④ use of official powers by some leaders to curb dissent ex→ C Rajagopalachari in Madras

Thus, ~~altho~~ despite its weaknesses, the Congress through its multipronged approach was able to do justice to its mandate & increase its prestige.

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3. Kamladevi Chattopadhyay was a multifaceted personality with significant contributions both to pre and post independence India. Elucidate.

(150 words) 10

Recently, Government efforts to commemorate the life of Kamladevi Chattopadhyay have highlighted her contributions to India.

Her multifaceted personality can be witnessed by her:

(a) contribution to women empowerment

(b) focus on tribal art & craft

(c) internationalist outlook in action

Her contributions were multiple & multidimensional:

Pre-Independence:

(a) worked to setup Indian branch of International Women's Organisation

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(b) took active part in Indian freedom struggle

Post - Independence

(a) worked for emancipation of African nations

(b) took steps to improve cultural heritage conservation of India ex → Kala Akademi

(c) focused on tribal art & craft popularisation

Thus through her multipronged contribution, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay has indeed led a life worth commemorating.

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4. The inherent limitations of Napoleon's policy of Continental Blockade ultimately resulted in its failure. Analyze. **(150 words) 10**

Napoleon in the 18th century implemented a Continental Blockade on Britain:

(a) banned trading of British goods in Europe

(b) closed economic markets of Europe to British goods

This policy to weaken Britain had several limitations:

(a) no control on international markets of Britain → India, China, USA

(b) British industrial revolution

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untouched by this blockade

(c) failure to provide alternative to British goods

(d) focus solely on Britain's loss, not France's gains

(e) no action against colonies of Britain

Thus, due to its inherent limitations the policy failed & Britain emerged as a global superpower.

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5. Despite changes in the institution of marriage in recent times, there have been elements of continuity as well. Discuss in the context of India.
(150 words) 10

Marriage is a social institution having the approval of society & sanction of customs & law.

This institution has however seen multiple changes recently:

① change in purpose from 'religious duty' to 'lifelong companionship'

② shift from religious function to a more social function

③ egalitarianism in married households ie women empowerment

④ increase in divorces, desertation, & single parent households; intercaste marriages

⑤ emergence of neolocal marriages

However, despite changes, elements

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of continuity exist:

① families say in deciding marriage partners

② religious functions still persist

③ focus on gotra-exogamy continues

④ women still not equal to male partners ex → marital rape problem

⑤ taboo regarding intercaste marriages, divorces, widowhood, persist

Thus, although an element of homogenisation is visible, it is hybridisation of the institution ~~with~~ that is more palpable, particularly in the Indian context.

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6. There are multiple disabilities that a person experiences in the course of ageing. Elaborate. Also identify key government initiatives taken for addressing them. (150 words) 10

India's population will increase by 50% by 2050 but the 60+ population will increase by 350% by 2050. Thus, focus on old age & its disabilities are imperative.

The multiple disabilities faced & the relevant government steps are.

① Health Disabilities:

ⓐ increased in NCD burden of diseases

ⓑ psychological problems (43% of senior citizens face psychological issues)

Government steps:

ⓐ increase Health & Wellness centres to 1.5 lakh

ⓑ Ayushman Bharat scheme → NHPS

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(2) Economic

(i) Disability

(a) impoverishment in old age due to lack of income

(b) lack of financial support from families

(ii) Government Steps:

(a) PM Vaya Vandana Yojana for economic insurance

(b) Maintenance Act 2007 & PRANAM Bill (in Assam)

(3) Cultural

(i) Disability:

(a) increased ruralisation of elderly (71% elderly are in villages)

(b) skewed sex ratio increasing widows (1033 women per 1000 men for 60+)

(ii) Initiatives: (a) Widow Pension Schemes

Thus, although steps have been taken a more multipronged response is needed.

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7. Highlight the reasons behind prevalence of low literacy rate among tribals. Also, mention some initiatives taken by the government in this regard.
(150 words) 10

Tribal literacy rate in India continues to be ~50% compared to the national average of 76%.

There are multiple causes behind this prevalence:

1. lack of awareness of importance of education among tribals
2. economic poverty ~~makes~~ pushes children into labour as economic agents
3. discrimination faced by tribals in schools particularly in rural India
4. geographic isolation of tribals
5. benefits of reservation not evenly spread

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6) geographical disparities among tribals ex → 90% literacy rates in some NE states

To address these factors, Government has taken multiple initiatives

1) Eklavya Model Residential schools in all ITDAs

2) Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya for female tribal students

3) policy of reservation in educational institutions

4) 25% EWS reservation in RTE which tribals can avail

5) Jiban Sampark Yojana of Odisha government for PVTGs

Thus although initiatives abound, more systematic & multipronged efforts are the need of the hour.

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8. Explain how Continental Drift Theory describes the changing configuration of the continents. Discuss the prominent evidences given by Alfred Wegener to support his theory. **(150 words) 10**

The Continental Drift Theory was one of the earliest theories proposed by Alfred Wegener to describe the continental configuration.

Theory:

(a) proposes a Super proto continent called Pangea

(b) proto-ocean called Panthalasa

(c) continents were initially all joined into this landmass

(d) slowly, over centuries, drifted apart to take current shape

(e) force force drift: → tidal pull of Sun & Moon
→ polar fleeing force

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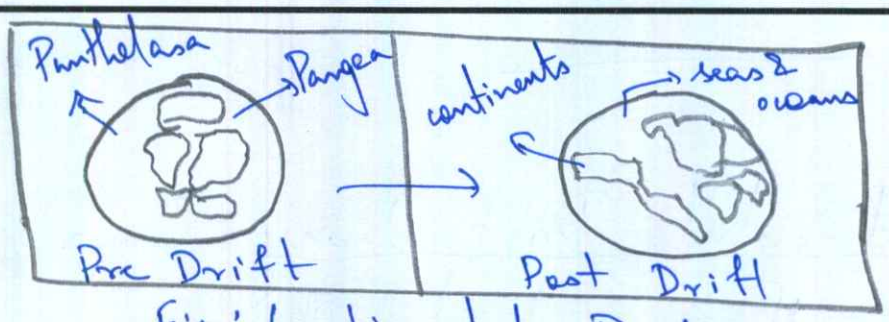

Fig: Continental Drift

The evidence for this were:

① jigsaw puzzle fit of continents (ex → South America & Africa)

② fossil evidences found across continents matched

③ similarities in rock distribution & presence of soils in continents without parent rock

④ glacial evidences in tropical areas

However, the lack of a satisfactory driving force & emergence of the better Plate Theory led to the theory's discredit.

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9. The variety of landforms on the earth's surface is the result of internal and external forces. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

Earth's landform is constantly being shaped by exogenic (external) & endogenic (internal forces).

Exogenic Forces → Weathering → Physical, → Chemical
Exogenic Forces → Erosion → Wind, → Water, → Glacial

Endogenic Forces → Orogenesis, → Folding, → Faulting

These forces give rise to a variety of landforms:

① Plains

ⓐ formation of river valleys, meanders

ⓑ depositional forces causing sediment plain formation ex → Ganga plain

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② Mountains

ⓐ folding causing fold mountains
ex → Himalayas, Alps

ⓑ erosion creating plateaus & smaller hills ex → Aravalli

③ Glacial Landforms

ⓐ formation of cirques, peaks in glacial areas ex → Alps (Matterhorn)

ⓑ glacial erosion causing formation of morraines, egg basket topography

④ Deserts

ⓐ formation due to wind erosion (external)

ⓑ pedeplains, dunes, barchans due to depositional forces

Thus, Earth's landforms are continuously being changed due to these forces.

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10. Explaining the concept of ~~Lapse Rate,~~ examine its relationship with atmospheric stability. **(150 words) 10**

Lapse Rate refers to increase in temperature & its impact on the water carrying capacity of the atmosphere/airmass.

Adiabatic Lapse Rate has significant implications on atmospheric stability.

~~ADI~~ Adiabatic lapse Rate of airmass determines the height upto which it rises. The lower the height the larger the atmospheric stability

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High heights attained by airmass causes rain & thus atmospheric instability.

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11. The colonial period brought the influence of Western architectural forms to India. In this context, giving examples, highlight the contribution of Europeans to Indian architecture. **(250 words) 15**

The recent addition of Gothic styles of architecture in Mumbai to the World Heritage list has highlighted Western influence on India's architecture.

This influence of Europeans to Indian architecture was multidimensional:

① Religious architecture

ⓐ use of Gothic features in churches constructed

ⓑ Latin cross ground layout, spires, principle of verticality visible

ⓒ witnessed in Goa, Puducherry (Basilica of Bom Jesus)

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(2) Civic Architecture

(a) Lutyen's influence seen in buildings in Delhi

(b) Parliament, Rashtrapati Bhawan all show Indo-Gothic style

(c) mix of Indo-Islamic & European influence

(3) Widespread Influence

(a) French architecture in Puducherry (plain walls) visible

(b) Portuguese influence in Goa's religious & civic architecture

(c) European influence seen in architecture of Mussorie, Shimla etc

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Thus, through its all-encompassing influence & mixture of several styles, the Europeans indeed contributed significantly to India's architectural history & present.

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12. The nineteenth century witnessed a struggle against the backward elements of traditional culture. Discuss in the context of socio-religious reform movements. **(250 words) 15**

The 19th century period in India is often termed as the 'Indian Renaissance' due to the socio-religious movements efforts against the backward elements of traditional cultures.

① Struggle against Women Misery

ⓐ women were suppressed & their rights denied under garb of tradition

ⓑ socio-religious movements focused on female emancipation

ⓒ educational efforts of DK Karve, Jyotiba Phule fought against this culture

ⓓ widow emancipation through Widow

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Remarriage Association, Ishwar Chandra, etc. fought for widows

(e) fight against Sati & child marriage by Raja Ram

(2) Struggle against Backward classes movement

(a) Jyotiba Phule, fought for emancipation of lower castes

(b) Sri Narayana preached equality in Kerala

(c) movements like Justice Party, Self Respect Movements

(d) Shahu Maharaja took the fight to princely states

(3) Struggle against Conservatism

(a) socioreligious reformers aimed to break rigid religious constructs

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(b) increase in universalism, monotheism & rationality in religion

(c) Raja Ram, Akshay Kumar, Syed Ahmed Khan led this change

Thus this struggle against backward cultural elements ~~assumed~~ assumed multiple forms & was spread to various religions (Aligarh Movement, Singh Sabha, Rehnumai Mazdeyasan).

These reformers thus laid the groundwork for an all inclusive national movement to follow.

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13. Explaining the reasons behind partition of Bengal, discuss the successes and limitations of the Swadeshi movement launched in its wake.

(250 words) 15

The Partition of Bengal effected in October 1905 was an example of British application of Divide & Rule.

Official Reasons Given:

① size of Bengal was administratively unwieldy

② contained 78 million population (quarter of British Raj) thus division needed

Real Reasons:

① dividing Bengal on lines of religion

ⓐ East Bengal → Muslim majority

ⓑ West Bengal (proper) → Hindu majority

② division to weaken Bengal movement:

ⓐ Bengali speaking in minority in

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Bengal proper

Thus the goal was to effect a divide in order to weaken Bengal's national movement & extend the Raj.

In response to this, the Swadeshi & Boycott movement was launched on 7th August 1905.

Successes.

① first genuine mass movement of India

② unity between economic classes - intellengtsia, peasants, etc.

③ focus on self reliance in economic & cultural spheres (Bengal PC Ray Factory, "Amar Sonar Bangla" by Tagore)

④ focus on national education increased (National Council of Education, Bengal Institute

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of Technology)

(5) cloth imports from Britain fell 5-15 times thus boosting national textile

However, there were some shortcomings

(1) confined only to Bengal (with only individual efforts in Punjab & Bombay)

(2) divided Congress sorely on Moderate & Radical lines leading to 1907 Surat Split

(3) communalism continued as some religious aspects of movement were misconstrued

(4) confined only to question of partition not Swaraj

Thus, although there were shortcomings the Swadeshi movement paved avenues & devised methods of mass struggle which the Gandhian era successfully emulated.

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14. The reorganisation of states in India post-independence has been an ongoing process with distinct contributing factors. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

India, post independence, has seen widespread state reorganisation as seen by:

① increase in number of states from 14 → 28

② ~~increase in~~ & changes in number of Union territories

③ multiple committees - JVP, Fazl Ali - formed to study state reorganisation

However, this process still remains an ongoing process:

① demands of smaller states (UP → Harith UP in West)

② reorganisation in North East (Bodoland, Nagalim demands)

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(3) recent bifurcation of JnK & Ladakh

This ~~has~~ ongoing process has several factors:

(1) Economic Factors:

(a) calls of reorganisation due to imbalanced regional development

(b) witnessed in Marathwada, Saurashtra

(2) Geographic Isolation

(a) isolation of North East fuels reorganisation calls

(b) seen in Nagalim demand

(3) Social Causes

(a) religion driving reorganisation calls (as was in Khalistan)

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(b) reorganisation calls to ensure political claut (Bodoland demand in Assam)

(7) Divisive Politics

(a) fuelling son of soil theory in substate units

(b) increasing focus on political mobilisation in smaller areas

Thus, the calls for state-reorganisation & the processes are still ongoing. The Government should address demands of all stakeholders while ensuring unity & integrity of our nation.

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15. The Treaty of Versailles was not a peace agreement based on reconciliation but was 'dictated peace' forced on Germany, which eventually triggered the Second World War. Examine. **(250 words) 15**

The 100 year anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles has led to further examination of its nature & its contribution in Hitler's Rise & the Second World War.

Clearly, the Treaty was a dictated peace as can be witnessed by:

① Germany was not a participant thus a "Victor's Treaty"

② placing sole blame of war on Germany through the Blame Clause

③ was a revenge against the harsh 'Treaty of Brest-Litovsk'

④ even Victors were not fully consulted (ex→ no Russia in negotiations)

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(5) use of Treaty by France to solely improve its national interests
ex ⇒ coal mines of Saar, weakened Germany

It is this 'dictated peace' that played a significant role in the second WW.

(1) Rise of Hitler

(a) Hitler exploited misery of Germany to further his rise

(b) spoke of economic & military consequences of ToV on Germany

(c) propaganda to break clauses of ToV furthered his popularity

(2) Policy of Appeasement

(a) Britain believed Germany was treated unfairly

(b) thus followed Policy of Appeasement in Hitler's actions of conscription, Czecho-

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- slovakia, etc.

(c) this was a major factor to WWII

(3) International Impacts

(a) lack of German economic recovery led to growth slowdown in Europe

(b) ToV was also not favourable to Italy, thus rise of Fascism

(c) chained US in a web of Alliances through its loans which caused wall Street crash to spread to Europe

Thus, although not the sole factor, Treaty of Versailles was indeed a significant factor in the eventual WW II.

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16. Legal measures alone are not sufficient for addressing the issue of domestic violence against women, rather it requires intervention at societal level. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

India through the Domestic Violence Act & relevant sections of the IPC aims to curb the menace of domestic violence.

However, these are often inadequate because:

① Economic Causes

ⓐ women's contribution to GDP is only 17% & the LFPR is 22%.

ⓑ huge unpaid work by women (600% more than men → OECD)

ⓒ causes economic subservience to men & thus disempowerment

② Social Causes

ⓐ acceptance of intimate partner violence (IPV) in many sections (surveys

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place this at ~50'l.)

(b) lack of awareness of legal alternatives

Thus, the menace of IPV needs more interventions at the societal level:

(1) Awareness

(a) focus on raising awareness of IPV & the ~~alternat~~ legal recourses

(b) increase education to ensure women empowerment

(2) Social Capital

(a) use of SHGs to build women's social capital

(b) 47million women under SHGs are a good sign

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(3) External Interventions

(a) using NGOs like NGO Sakhiya to work for women empowerment

(b) strengthen Krishna Kutirs to further provide legal & psychological help to victims

(c) sensitise police to women issues

Thus, the menace of IPV that has gripped Indian women needs a more systemic & multipronged response at the societal & economic level. This will go a long way in SDG 5 achievement by 2030.

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17. India is undergoing a demographic transition the implications of which are multipronged. Analyze. **(250 words) 15**

Indian population is undergoing a demographic transition that impacts: (a) various segments of population (demographic dividend & ageing population)
(b) socio-economic implications that need further analysis.

This demographic transition is witnessed by:
(1) increasing urbanisation (32% of population in urban areas)
(2) demographic dividend (60% population in 15-59 age group)
(3) increase in old age share (8% (currently) → 16% (2045))

This all-encompassing transition has multiple implications:

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Social Implications

(a) increasing focus on old age health

(b) shifting focus to NCDs (responsible for 60% deaths in India)

(c) shifting focus to higher education from primary education (Eco Survey)

(d) room for social strife due to increased population

Economic Implications

(a) job creation for 9.7 million addition in workforce annually needed

(b) skill development of youth (currently 5% formal training)

(c) focus on urban planning to prevent spread of slums (65 million slum inhabitants) as stress on cities will increase

(d) increase in costs on pensions &

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social security

(e) increase in migration thus adding to economic resource stress

(f) increased food insecurity

Thus, India needs a multipronged solution :

(1) increase education & health spending (3.3% & 1.18% of GDP respectively (current))

(2) phased increase in retirement age

(3) work on 'pull back factors' of migration (agri revival, MNREGA expansion)

(4) increase focus on old age & NCD health care

Thus, to reach the SDGs by 2030, India needs to focus on these & similar steps.

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18. Highlight the significance of watershed development in India. Give reasons for the limited success of initiatives directed towards watershed management in India. Also, suggest some measures to improve the design of watershed programs. **(250 words) 15**

The recent composite water Management Report of NITI Aayog highlighted the significance & urgent need of watershed development in India.

The significance of watershed development:

① Urgent Need of Water

ⓐ 120 million Indians lack access to clean drinking water

ⓑ responsible for 21% of communicable disease mortality

② Potential of Watershed Management

ⓐ would reduce water misuse in agriculture (runoff, flooding, etc)

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(b) be pivotal in water recycling efforts of India

Realising this importance several initiatives have been taken to ensure watershed development:

1. Command Area Development Program
2. Bhujal Yojana
3. elements of Krishi Sinchaye Yojana
4. Namami Ganga Program

However, these have faced multiple hurdles:

1. lack of funds (Long Term Fund was needed for success of AIBP)
2. lack of community participation (top-down approach)

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③ rampant reliance & misuse of groundwater

④ difficulty in reducing non-point pollution sources

Some suggestions to ensure success:

① focus on drip irrigation (9 m ha vs 90 m ha potential)

② focus on community participation (as in Bhoogal Yojana)

③ holistic efforts & targeted approach (as in Namami Ganga)

④ increasing funds to ensure watershed development

Thus, to achieve SDG 4 by 2030, watershed development will need a significant boost.

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19. Explain the relationship between raw materials and location of industries. How are globalisation and technological advancements changing this relationship? **(250 words) 15**

Raw materials - presence & proximity - are one of the crucial determining factors in the location of industries.

This factor however, varies for types of industries:

① Input Intensive Industries

ⓐ need proximity & abundance of raw materials

ⓑ closeness to raw materials reduces costs of transportation

ⓒ perishable raw materials (sugarcane) need proximity to industries

ⓓ presence of raw materials sometimes also determines presence of markets (ex → coal bearing Jharkhand & steel industries)

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(2) Footloose industries

(a) low relationship between ~~la~~ raw materials & location

(b) ex → pharmaceuticals

Thus, for majority of industries barring footloose ones, raw material & industry location are closely related

However, this relationship is changing due to tech advancements & globalisation.

Globalisation:

(1) increased export & import of raw materials thus factories shifting to ports ex → iron & steel industries in Vizag

(2) increase in capital has made capital availability an equally important factor

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(3) increased demand for products of footloose industries ex → electronics, pharma, etc.

Tech Advancement:

(1) improved resource utilisation, recycling has reduced raw material dependence

(2) better storage & transport tech helping perishable industries

(3) cheaper power due to tech advancement (ex → hydro) causing shift from coal areas

Thus, globalisation & tech advancements, have & will continue to change the industrial landscape in multiple ways.

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20. Explain how natural greenhouse effect helps in maintaining Earth's heat budget. What are the possible implications of rising concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in atmosphere on Earth's heat budget?

(250 words) 15

The maintenance of Earth's temperature by ensuring natural balance & delay in its solar insolation & reflection through the greenhouse effect, helps the Earth maintains its heat budget.

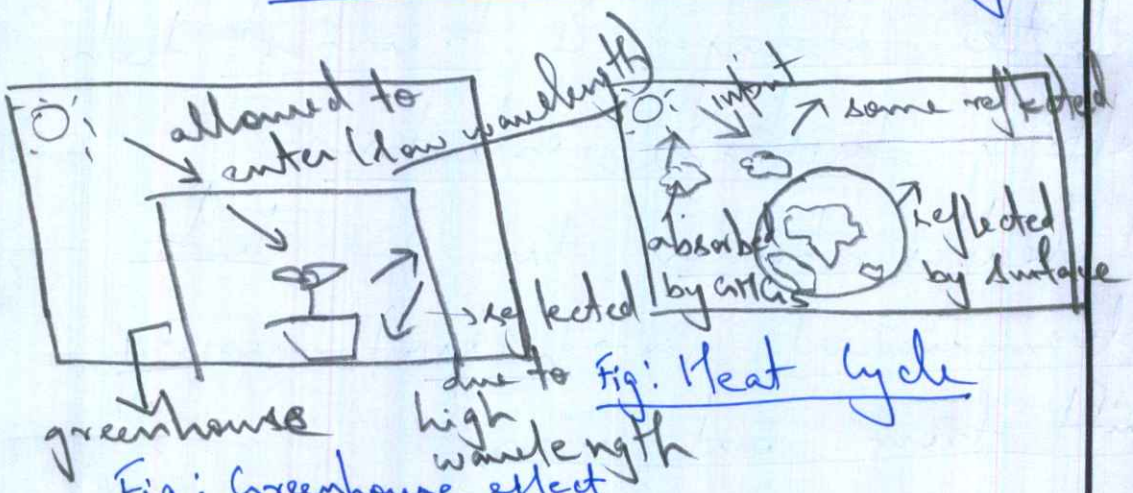

Fig: Greenhouse effect

Fig: Heat cycle

The greenhouse effect helps maintain heat budget by:

① absorbing share of solar insolation thus ~~giving~~ ensuring high temperature

② causing delay in heat escape of

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reflected light (thus ensuring lag)

(3) allowing Sun's rays to enter as they are of low wavelength

However, this natural phenomena has been drastically impacted by anthropogenic addition of various GHGs.

This has the following implications:

(1) Global warming

(a) increased GHG concentration increases heat absorption

(b) thus temperatures increase (already 1°c rise from pre industrial)

(c) increases melting of glaciers, seasurface temperatures, etc.

(2) Impact on Marine Environment

(a) increase temperatures of seas which

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absorb 90% of temperature increase

(b) causes deoxygenation as warm waters hold less oxygen, thus killing sea life & coral bleaching

(3) Increased Disasters

(a) high sea surface temperatures increase tropical cyclones (Fani, Vayu)

(b) melting of glaciers causes flooding (33% of glaciers in Hindukush expected to melt)

(c) rising sea levels can cause 200 million climate refugees by 2050 (IMO)

Thus, it is imperative to control GHG emissions & achieve SDG 13, 14 & 15 through combined adaptation & mitigation measures.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	KUMAR SHIVASHISH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	371859
Center	BENGALURU	Date	9/9/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. **(150 words) 10**

The NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission with effect from 1st January 2015 as part of the government's reform agenda.

Structure:

PM → Chairperson

↓

Vice-Chairperson (appointed by PM)

- Full Time Members
- Invitee Members (ex-officio basis) max → 2
- Ex Officio Members [4 Council of Ministers members]

Governing Council → CMs & LGs of states & UTs

Secretary & CEO → appointed by PM

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Functions: ① focus on Antyodaya
② village led development
③ Think tank for Government
④ Team India Hub for cooperative federalism
⑤ exchange for demand & expertise

Relevance:

① particularly relevant in terms of cooperative federalism
② focus on synergising private & government actions is commendable
③ discards one-size-fits-all approach of PC

However,
① lack of funding powers
② solely recommendatory powers
③ inability to maintain respectable intellectual distance with Government need redressal to enhance effect.

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2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. **(150 words) 10**

A recent study by a Delhi Law College critiqing pendency in Fast Track Courts (FTCs) has highlighted their functioning.

The practice of FTCs establishment to reduce judicial pendency helps in:

1. reducing burden of SC, HCs & other courts (Subordinate)
2. specific FTCs dealing with select issues helps in reducing pendency
3. ease of establishing FTCs (by State, Court Order) facilitates justice delivery at fast rate
4. examples of success → 26/11 cases

However this practice clearly falls

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short of its target due to :

① lack of special procedural provisions to fast-track procedures

② lack of manpower (ex → 1 or 2 judges in Delhi FTCs)

③ 7 lakh of 25 lakh cases in FTCs are pending

④ verdicts from FTCs are often challenged thus purpose defeated

⑤ lack of funds (no central funds since 2011) hampers functioning thus increasing pendency.

Thus, to reduce the 3.3 crore backlog of cases, FTCs need to sufficiently funded & empowered along with more systemic changes in the judiciary.

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3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. **(150 words) 10**

Of the 3.3 crore cases pending in India, 87% rest with the lower judiciary.

The lower judiciary faces multiple challenges:

① vacancies in lower judiciary at 25%.

② productivity of lower judiciary at 79% of required (Eco Survey 2019)

③ extreme recourse to adjournments as against 3 per case norm

④ poor infrastructure (<1% of GDP only spent at judiciary)

⑤ lower judiciary is mired in corruption

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Thus, these call for multipronged solutions:

① filling vacancies (will ensure no addition to backlog)

② strict timelines for completion of cases

③ improving infrastructure of lower courts

④ High Courts to monitor productivity of lower courts.

In addition to these, one-time central recruitment of judges to lower courts or the formation of an All-India Judicial Service can be considered.

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4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. **(150 words) 10**

Recently a number of legislative steps with questionable clauses ex-> Triple Talaq have increased calls for post-legislative scrutiny

This has multiple benefits & is thus needed:

① Ensure implementation of laws

ⓐ post legislative scrutiny will ensure application of law

ⓑ effectiveness of laws in letter & spirit ensured

② Mid course corrections

ⓐ scrutiny will ensure midcourse corrections through feedback

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(b) thus unintended consequences of laws can be stopped

(3) Prevents Kneejerk Lawmaking

(a) adverse consequences of laws

ex → lower reporting of child sex abuse cases due to death penalty clause

(b) post legislative scrutiny rules such legislative impacts

Thus, a formal process like a Law Impact Assessment in line with practices in Kenya is the need of the hour.

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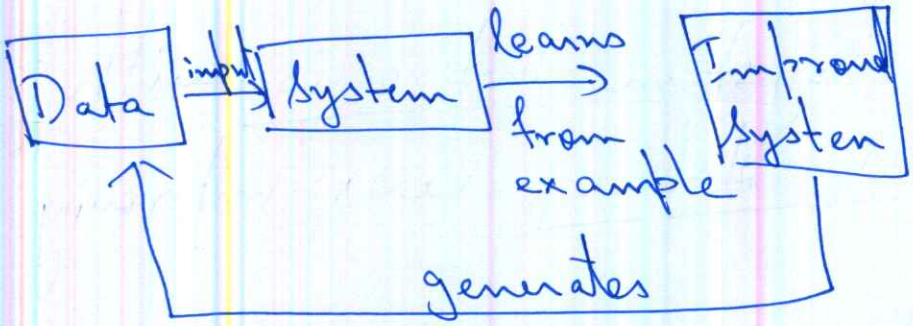
5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. **(150 words) 10**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the training of computers through input of examples to learn & act like humans.



The potential of AI improving e-governance are huge:

① better grievance redressal through self-improving feedback loop

② seamless connections across

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departments thus holistic response

③ faster turnaround time

④ reduced human interactions curbing limited scope for corruption in e-governance

⑤ since system improves with time & data, ever-improving facility

Thus recent calls of NITI Ayog to incorporate AI in e-governance needs to be heeded, researched upon & incorporated.

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6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public Grievance Redressal forms a critical component of effective & accountable governance. Realising its importance, several reforms have been introduced:

① CPGRAMS initiative of the Ministry

② Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances ~~in~~ ~~MoP~~ ~~Ministry~~ established

③ Charter System introduced with details of grievance redressal mechanisms

④ separate platform for public grievances by the PMO

⑤ increased social audits (MGNREGA)

Despite these reforms, the

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effectiveness of these are limited because:

① lack of implementation of Charter system.

② proper Public Grievance Redressal needs significant process re-engineering missing

③ grievance data is not used as feed back mechanism

④ lack of awareness among public of available avenues

⑤ bureacratic apathy hampers efforts

Thus more focus on this aspect, through the Sevottam model suggested by ARC II is the need of the hour.

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7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

In India, a child is trafficked every 8 minutes. Similar is the plight of women trafficking.

Factors:

① Economic

ⓐ poverty sees children as economic agents

ⓑ forces female trafficking by taking advantage of the vulnerable poor

ⓒ rampant child labour (10 million child labours in India)

ⓓ increasing women in informal employment harms security

② Social Causes

ⓐ vulnerability of women & children

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due to disempowerment
(b) cultural customs like Devadasi
(c) globalisation causing objectification of women
(d) emergence of dark-web & its anonymity

Recognising this, several steps have been taken:

(1) Anti Trafficking Bill:
(a) stringent provision
(b) structural changes - Anti Trafficking Bureau, etc.
(c) burden of proof on guilty

(2) platforms like PENCIL to reduce child labour & thus trafficking
(3) laws banning trafficking
(4) Integrated Child Protection Scheme

Thus, although commendable more steps are needed.

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8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. **(150 words) 10**

Vector Borne Diseases are diseases that are propagated through vectors ex→ malaria, kala azar, etc

These diseases have indeed reached epidemic proportions:

(1) India is still one of the few nations suffering from kala-azar (viscesal leischmaniasis)

(2) disproportionate burden of India in malaria cases

Factors that have led to their emergence:

(1) poor sanitation facilities - which 210 million Indians lack

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(2) poor drinking water facilities impacting 120 million Indians

(3) unplanned urbanisation causing 65 million Indians to live in slums with unhygienic conditions

(4) lack of awareness among populace ∴ thus low prevention

Steps taken:

(1) all encompassing National Program on Vector Borne Diseases (Kalaazar, filariasis, chikungunga, japanese encephalatis, dengue covered)

(2) focus on primary health through 1.5 lakh HWCs

(3) vaccinations in Mission Indra-dhanush.

Thus, India despite its efforts needs more to attain SDG 3 by 2030.

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9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

India & Indonesia share maritime borders but their relations have often taken a backseat in India's foreign policy initiatives.

However changing geostrategic realities have caused policy coordination among the nations.

① Rise of China

ⓐ threatens rule based maritime order

ⓑ India's concerns about String of Pearls & Indonesia's South China Sea concerns ~~that~~

ⓒ has caused policy coordination

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(2) Importance of Indo Pacific

(a) shift of global economic centre to East

(b) confluence of Indian & Pacific Oceans with ASEAN at centre

(c) importance of ASEAN Regional Forums, East Asia Summit, ADMM Plus

(d) increased cooperation

(3) Security

(a) aim of India to be Regional security provider needs Indonesia's cooperation

Thus, relations with Indonesia will represent a synergy of India's Act East, Neighborhood First & SAGAR (Security & Growth For All).

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10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.
(150 words) 10

Recent visits of high level dignitaries between India & Nepal have shifted focus on their ties.

India & Nepal have attempted to ~~reset~~ enrich their ties often:

1. cooperation on economic fronts
2. leveraging Treaty of Peace
3. open border systems leveraged for people-to-people contacts
4. telecom infrastructure provided by India ex → South Asian satellite
5. lines of credits & aids extended ex → Nepal earthquakes aid

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However, multiple barriers exist:

① emergence of China & its chequebook diplomacy

② anti-India sentiment due to alleged economic blockade

③ alleged 'Big Brotherly' attitude of India

④ below par utilisation of forums like SAARC, BIMSTEC, etc.

⑤ sanctuary provided & trafficking at Indo Nepal border

Thus India needs to follow the Gujral doctrine & ensure Nepal-India ties benefit from its Neighbourhood First doctrine.

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11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. **(250 words) 15**

In a representative democracy like India, groups like pressure groups & interest groups ensure representation of interests of multiple parts of society.

The differences:

Pressure Groups	Interest Groups
① members are of specific socio-economic groups ~~representing~~	① members not necessarily of a homogenous group
② own interests represented	② represent others' interests
③ mostly economic interests covered	③ human rights, environmental, etc. interests
④ use economic means to achieve tasks ie lobbying	④ use propaganda, awareness, research

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Pressure groups influence government decisions & policies in different manners:

① Propping Own Candidates

ⓐ candidates representing group interests supported in elections

ⓑ ensures law-makers represent interests

ⓒ usually ~~by~~ caste-pressure groups through caste parties → BSP, etc.

② Lobbying

ⓐ funding for ruling regime for favourable actions

ⓑ ex → Walmart incident

③ Mass Campaigns

ⓐ mass campaigns to create

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pressure on government

(b) recent marches in Mumbai & Delhi by farmer pressure groups

(c) agitation for farm loan waivers

Thus, through multiple avenues & interventions at different stages of the political process, these groups ensure their voices are heard.

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12. ~~Highlighting the~~ issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

The 73rd & 74th Amendment Acts were hailed as the second dawn of democracy in India. However, the implementation of these monumental changes has been far from satisfactory.

Issues faced:

① Funds & Functionaries

ⓐ PRIs only collect 5% of their funds

ⓑ rest is through state & central funds

ⓒ tied nature of funds prevents participation in its utilisation

ⓓ lack of training of PRI representatives harms local self governance

ⓔ GST harmed ULBs finances

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② State Actions

ⓐ lack of devolution of powers of 11th & 12th Schedule

ⓑ prescribing educational criteria disempowers people (Haryana)

ⓒ formation of parallel bodies harms decentralisation

③ Miscellaneous

ⓐ sarpanch pati neutralises 33% reservations

ⓑ poor infrastructure of PRIs

ⓒ bureaucratic inertia in dealing with representatives

Thus, several measures are needed to improve public service delivery:

① Funds:

ⓐ increase capabilities of fund collection

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(b) flexipool of funds needed
(c) innovative mechanisms like municipal bonds & Development Impact Bonds
(d) improved funds will improve services

(2) Governance

(a) increase tenure of & empower Mayors & Ward Committees
(b) regularly constitute State Finance Commission & accept approvals (10% acceptance in Bihar)

(3) Miscellaneous

(a) increase reservation to a rightful 50% for women for better women issues handling
(b) implementation of PESA

Thus, multiple changes can ~~only~~ ensure achievements of the Mahatma's Gram Raj dream in letter & spirit.

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13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

The Right to Information Act 2005 ensure to the citizens the right to ask for information & thus hold the powers-to-be accountable.

However recent amendments in the Act seek to severely dilute this Act:

① removing security of tenure of the CIC & ICs, making it subject to government actions

② removes the equivalence between the ECI & CIC

③ conditions of services subject to Government directions

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This amendment will severely weaken the Act:

① beats the purpose of the Act which derives its power from an independent CIC

② CIC is the highest level of appeal & thus Act weakens even the lower accountability infrastructure - Public Info Officers & State IC

The amendments severely harm the authority of the Commissioners:

① removes their Security of tenure

② employment ~~services~~ conditions being subject to Government whims hampers independence

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③ equivalence with the Election Commission of India had conferred on it maximum independence

Thus this Amendment, passed without much debate, needs a severe relook.

The Government would do good by removing these flaws & instead strengthen the organisation:

ⓐ by training PIOs (80% unaware of provisions → CIC Report)

ⓑ protecting RTI activists

ⓒ bringing political parties under RTI.

& thus ensure RTI to all indivi

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14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. **(250 words) 15**

Article 82 of the Constitution provides for a Delimitation Commission constitution by the Parliament to conduct delimitations after every census.

Process of Delimitation:

Parliament through Art. 82 powers frames Delimitation Act
↓
Delimitation Commission formed
↓
Delimitation Commission delimiates constituencies based on survey data
↓
Presented to Parliament
↓
no amendments or legal challenges
↓
notified by President

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However, 42nd & 84th Amendments have ~~stopped~~ limited any delimitation exercise to census 1971.

Recently a debate regarding this provision & need to consider more recent census has started.

Need to consider recent census.

① population since 1971 has increased by 87%. thus out-of-touch

② disparities in constituencies:
largest → 20 million people
smallest → 50000 people

③ value of 1 vote differs according to state ex → Rajasthan vs TN

④ India's representative to population ratio: 1:1500 vs 1:300 in Asia Pacific

⑤ increased burden on representatives to represent many constituents

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(6) large number of constituents affect local issues highlighting

However, the other side to the debate is also strong.

Why Freeze at 1971 census?

(1) important to ensure population control policies success

(2) prevents demographic engineering

(3) freeze till 2026 is mandated by Law

Thus, a middle path as suggested by a former Election Commissioner of delimitation after every census to ensure only minute changes while separately focusing on Population control is needed.

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15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. **(250 words) 15**

Self Help Groups are groups of individuals from similar socio-economic backgrounds that provide collective solutions to individual problems.

These 'engines of rural growth' (Economic Survey 2019) help in rural development & marginalised groups welfare.

Rural Development

(a) covers over 94 million individuals with majority in rural areas

(b) businesses linked to SHGs have a combined business of Rs 1 lakh crore, helping rural economy

(c) provide benefits to rural households as seen by Nabard survey:

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(i) 58% houses reported increase in assets
(ii) 18% households reported increased employment
(iii) 25% reported higher savings

These rural benefits accrue also to the marginalised groups:

(1) Women: (a) 47 million women covered
(b) surveys found 49% reduction in MMR among SHG participants
(c) social capital of women increases

(2) Minority & Backward Communities
(a) SHGs linked to tribal welfare & tribal marketing help STs
(b) provision of reservation in some SHGs (ex → Kudambashree) helps ensure representation

Despite their success, SHGs mention the following challenges & need the relevant redressal suggestions:

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① Credit : (a) Challenge → 40% of SHGs are still financed privately

(b) Suggestion → increase Naband's SHG-Bank linkage program as recommended by Kalia Committee

② Market linkages (a) Challenge :→ poor market linkages & branding

(b) Suggestions → link to markets & make branding visible through standardization

③ Socio Cultural :

(a) Challenge : - risk averse society
- lack of women economic empowerment

(b) Suggestion : - create insurance instruments designed for SHGs
- sensitise bank employees

④ ensuring human resources quality improvement which is lacking

Thus, through these ~~sugge~~ steps, SHGs can truly ~~become~~ achieve their potential.

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16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

The success & behavioural changes brought out by the Swachh Bharat Mission are indeed commendable & worth mentioning:

① over 8 crore toilets built
② >5 lakh villages declared ODF (from 47000 in 2014)
③ 4500 Ganga grams declared ODF
④ over 90% of toilet owners use the toilets (independent study)
⑤ over 90% of ODF villages sustained their status

However, construction & usage of toilets needs to be supplemented by ~~similar~~ other facet interventions

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① Faecal Sludge Waste Management

ⓐ ensuring construction of biotoilets

ⓑ no dry latrines to be constructed

ⓒ this will ensure safe & cheap waste disposal, critical for Clean India

ⓓ majorly help implementation of Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act

② Solid Liquid Waste Management

ⓐ SBM (U) envisages 100% safe disposal of SLWM

ⓑ however with only 9% recycling of the 25000 tonnes of plastic waste generated daily & 5% processing of the 20-25 mT construction waste generated, this goal is far away

ⓒ Clean India needs an effective enforcement of 100% SLWM

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③ ODF + & ODF ++ Protocols

ⓐ need to ensure end to public urination

ⓑ garbage segregation, disposal, recycling is also essential for Clean India

Thus, to achieve a Clean India similarly well funded, effectively implemented & usage of Nudge Theory (to create a social revolution) is needed in multiple ~~assets~~ facets.

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17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. **(250 words) 15**

With the launch of the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) recently, the features of the original Mission Indradhanush have been highlighted

Features:

(a) full immunisation of children between ages of 0-2 yrs

(b) ~~diseases~~ Vaccines covered → Diptheria
↳ Pertussis
↳ ~~Tuberculosis~~ Measles
↳ Rubella
↳ Japanese Encph
↳ Tetanus
↳ Polio Vaccine
↳ Hepatitis

(c) ensure widespread spatial coverage

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However, considering that 5 lakh children in India die annually of preventable causes, the Mission faced several challenges:

① Lack of Awareness

ⓐ lack of awareness among masses regarding immunisation benefits

ⓑ some areas had deep & inaccurate misconceptions about vaccines

ex → population control agents

② Disparity in Spread

ⓐ rural areas were not properly covered ~~due to~~

ⓑ even urban slums (34% immunisation in Delhi slums)

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(3) Lack of Funds & manpower severely impacted mission
(4) lack of vaccine availability in areas
Thus, these need the following suggestions:
(1) special focus on unreached areas as in Intensified Mission
(2) ensure proper funding & functionaries
(3) availability of vaccines to be addressed

Considering that targets of IMI are being reached at 2% increased coverage p.a. against the required 6%, the efforts need further strengthening.

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18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. **(250 words) 15**

A skilled youthforce holds the key to leveraging India's demographic dividend.

Skilling in India acquires special importance in light of changing economic & demographic landscape.

① Economic Changes:

ⓐ demand for higher skilled jobs in light of Fourth Industrial Revolution

ⓑ IR 4.0 also calls for urgent reskilling of our workforce

ⓒ changing demand of industries in areas of green skills to tackle environmental challenges

ⓓ need to focus on innovative workforce to ensure not getting stuck

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in 'Middle Income Trap'

(2) Demographic Changes

(a) annually addition of 9.7 million workers in India from 2021-31

(b) 60% population in 15-59 age

(c) urbanisation increasing (32%) calls for skilling of urban workforce

Considering this landscape, Skill India mission was launched with the following objectives:

(1) skilling 400 million by 2025

(2) formal certification of prior learning (RPL certificates)

(3) network of PM Kaushal Vikas Kendras for skilling

(4) involving private sector in skilling through Sector Skill Councils

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Successes:

(a) focus on skilling workforce increased

(b) private participation ex→ Maruti Suzuki

However, the Mission has mostly disappointed:

(a) <50% placement of skilled youth

(b) formally trained workforce in India → 5%, SKorea → 96%.

(c) only 47% of skilled youth are employable (Skill India Report)

(d) failure of Sector Skill Councils & private participation

Thus, the recommendations of Sharda Prasad Committee should be considered & a truly 5C revolution in Skill India is needed.

5Cs
- identify skills
- connect stakeholders
- correct skill gap
- catalyse skill demand
- create skill

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19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. **(250 words) 15**

India recently created a dedicated Indo Pacific division in the MEA to:

① ensure holistic decision making

② bring Indo-Pacific affairs under a Secretary to ensure accountability

The reasons for the formation were:

① Increased Importance of Indo Pacific Economically

ⓐ 70% of India's trade by volume through Indian Ocean

ⓑ 40% of all offshore oil production in this region

② Geostrategic Importance

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20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

Shangai Cooperation Organisation is an economic, political Eurasian alliance comprising of 8 members.

Members of SCO:
- India
- Pakistan
- Russia
- China
- Kazakhastan
- Kyrgystan
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan

SCO functions under the 'Shanghai spirit' of consensus, harmony & mutual respect.

However, to succeed SCO needs to address following issues:

① Sort Bilateral Issues:

(a) between India & Pak

(b) non-redressal could impact

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SCO as is the case with Pakistan

(c) India-China distrust would harm SCO

(2) Differences in Regional Calculations

(a) India needs to balance its relations with US & Israel

(b) differences in definitions of goal of terrorism containment to be addressed for success of RATS

(c) divergence of India & China's geopolitical goals

Sorting out these differences is pivotal for ensuring success of the Eurasian alliance.

For India, SCO can also ensure furthering of its goals in Eurasia.

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① Security

ⓐ cooperation through RATS to ensure peace in India's neighborhood

② Central Asia

ⓐ critical in ensuring Connect Central Asia policy

ⓑ economic relations increase from current $2 billion trade p.a.

ⓒ pivotal in success of INSTC, Chabahar Port

③ RIC

ⓐ Russia-India-China cooperation needed to break Western hegemony

Thus, ensuring strategic autonomy India needs to balance its multiple interests while leveraging Eurasian cooperation